

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

25X1A

DATE DISTR. 17 August 1950

NO. OF PAGES

NO. OF ENCLS. 2 (1 three-
(LISTED BELOW) page report,
3 sketches)

DATE ACQUIRED [REDACTED] SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

Attached for your information is a report concerning the uranium ore washing plant between Pechtelsgrün and Lengenfeld. It is sent to you on indefinite loan.

Also attached are three copies of a sketch showing the location of the plant. These are sent to you for retention.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION			
ARMY	AIR	OS 1	X			

7 February 1950

Uranium Ore Washing Plant in PECHTELSGRUENTo mid-September 1949

1. The PECHTELSGRUEN (N 51/K 33) Washing Plant, southwest of PECHTELSGRUEN at the confluence of two small rivulets - one coming from the east, the other from the north - about 1½ miles northeast of LENGENFELD (N 51/K 22), east of the LENGENFELD-ZWICKAU highway, was still in the construction stage. A storage dam, about 330 feet long, 15 feet high and a 7-foot wide ridge, was piled from waste materials at the junction of both rivulets. The dammed water accumulated in a 500-foot long reservoir, the water of which was used for washing the materials produced in the diggings. The washing operation was done in a cantonment building parallel to the storage dam.
2. Another cantonment building housed the sorting shop, the laboratory and the dispatch department. The brick administration building was under construction. It will be a three or four-story building. Excavation work for the construction of additional stone buildings was under way. Some small wooden sheds served as tool, fuel, etc. depots.
3. An employee of the laboratory, an acquaintance of source, stated:
 - a. The work force numbered about 200 workmen.
 - b. An additional group of 10 or 12 young Soviet civilians was recently assigned to this plant.
 - c. There were conveyor belts, about 3'3" wide, of strong rubberized linen. The interval between the rolls of the conveyor belt was about 20 inches. All machines of the washing plant were driven by electro-motors.
 - d. The incoming rock came on the conveyor belt which lowered in the center and passed through water. The water immediately became dirty and yellow-brown when the ore submerged. The purified stones continued to the sorting shop on conveyor belts where lumps registering positive reaction were sorted

THIS IS A
 SECRET

25X1A

after the stones had been tested for radioactivity. The worthless waste was dumped through a chute. The radioactive ore was ground into fine grains in a crushing mill and was packed into iron barrels, similar to fuel drums, with a volumetric capacity of 200 to 250 kg. A Russian inscription was painted in white on these barrels. They were shipped on German trucks in the direction of ZWICKAU with only Soviet soldiers at the wheel. In addition to the driver there was a Soviet escort soldier in the driver's cabin and on the truck bench. The route of these shipments could not be learned.

e. The maximum radioactive content of ore delivered to the PECHTELGRUEN plant was 0.5 percent. The minimum content registered was 0.05 percent. The average radioactive content of one iron barrel of 200 to 250 kg amounted to from 0.20 to 0.25 percent.

f. The original weekly output consisted only of a few kilograms. The present weekly production has increased to 200 or 250 kg.

25X1A

Comment:

a. Various reports on the LENGENFELD Ore Washing Plant (Object 31 of the Wismuth Corporation) were received. This washing plant between PECHTELGRUEN and LENGENFELD is designated both PECHTELGRUEN Washing Plant and LENGENFELD Washing Plant.

b. The plant location was marked in the annexed sketch on the basis of available records. The layout sketch of the washing plant was made according to the indication of a previous report (July 1947) and therefore shows the setup before the plant expansion. However, it is possible and even probable that the washing plant described in this report is only a part of the installations of Object 31.

c. The report indicated only a sorting shop and a crushing or ball mill where the sorted active stones are crushed and ground. The washing plant for ore concentration, where dead stones are separated from ores, is not mentioned. Source reported on the indoors equipment working method

25X1X

He may therefore have supplied an inaccurate description, for a washing plant for ore concentration can be concluded from the existence of a storage dam

Copy 1 of 6 copies
 Page 2 of 2 pages

h-
SECRET

25X1A

installation. According to two previous reports (June and July 1947) the ore shipments from the uranium district first came to PECHTELGRUEN into a crushing mill (the PECHTELGRUEN crushing mill is said to have spur tracks). The crushed materials then were conveyed by a cable to the LENGENFELD Washing Plant (the installation described in this report) where the ore was concentrated in a washing process. According to these two reports Object 31 must consist of two separate installations: the PECHTELGRUEN Crushing Mill and the washing plant between PECHTELGRUEN and LENGENFELD, both plants being interconnected by a cable way. The LENGENFELD washing plant is said to be the washing plant of the former Wolframit Mine. The dead stones leaving the crushing mill were allegedly dumped into the abandoned shafts of the Wolframit Mine in PECHTELGRUEN. Efforts will be made to clarify the contradictory statements.

d. There are only old records on the plant capacity. They indicate that the amount of available water was insufficient, limiting operations especially during the dry summer season. During this time it may be possible that crushed materials left the plant without the concentrating washing process.

e. The average amount of stones shipped to PECHTELGRUEN/LENGENFELD in the Summer of 1948 was 15 to 20 carloads, corresponding to 220 to 300 tons daily. When the enlarged Object 99 started operation shipments to LENGENFELD allegedly decreased. However, this can be only a temporary measure as the LENGENFELD Washing Plant is presently being expanded.

f. The indications on the degree of concentration are not clear and need clarification.

g. The indicated volumetric capacity of the barrels is doubtful. Various reports agree that such barrels usually contain only about 40 kg of crushed ore and stones, the total weight of a filled barrel being about 50 kg.

1 Annex: Uranium Ore Washing Plant in PECHTELGRUEN

Copy 1 of 6 copies
Page 3 of 3 pages

Uranium Ore Washing Plant in PECHTELGRUEN

25X1A

SECRET

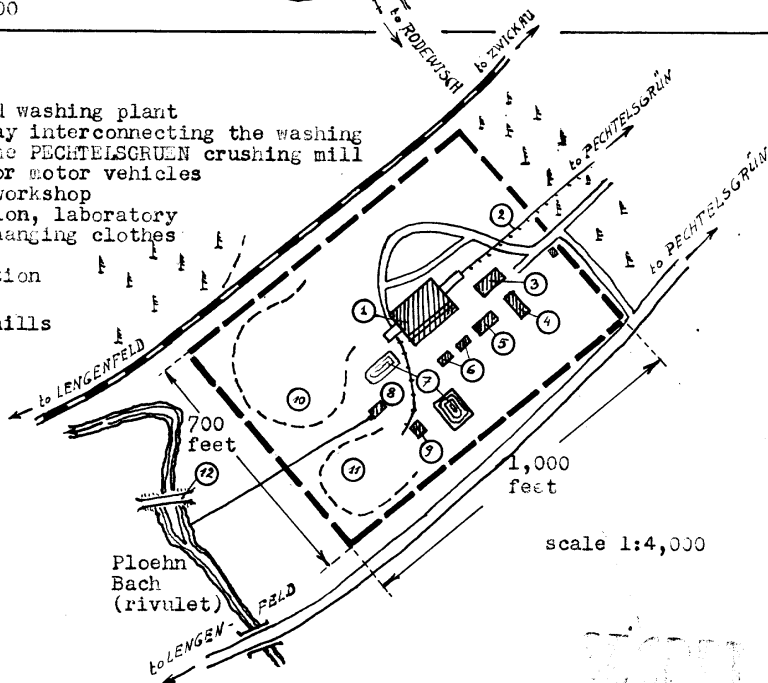
Legend:

- A Uranium ore washing plant

scale 1:100,000

Legend:

- 1 Dressing and washing plant
- 2 Cable railway interconnecting the washing plant and the PECHTELGRUEN crushing mill
- 3 Shed roof for motor vehicles
- 4 Automobile workshop
- 5 Administration, laboratory
- 6 Rooms for changing clothes
- 7 Mud pit
- 8 Pumping station
- 9 Fuel dump
- 10) White sand hills
- 11) Weir
- 12 Weir



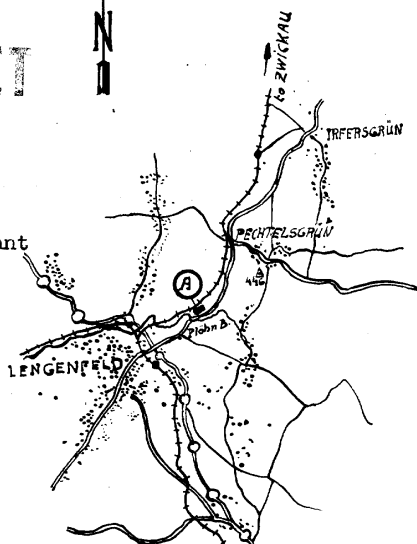
Uranium Ore Washing Plant in PECHTELSCRUEN

25X1A

SECRET

Legend:

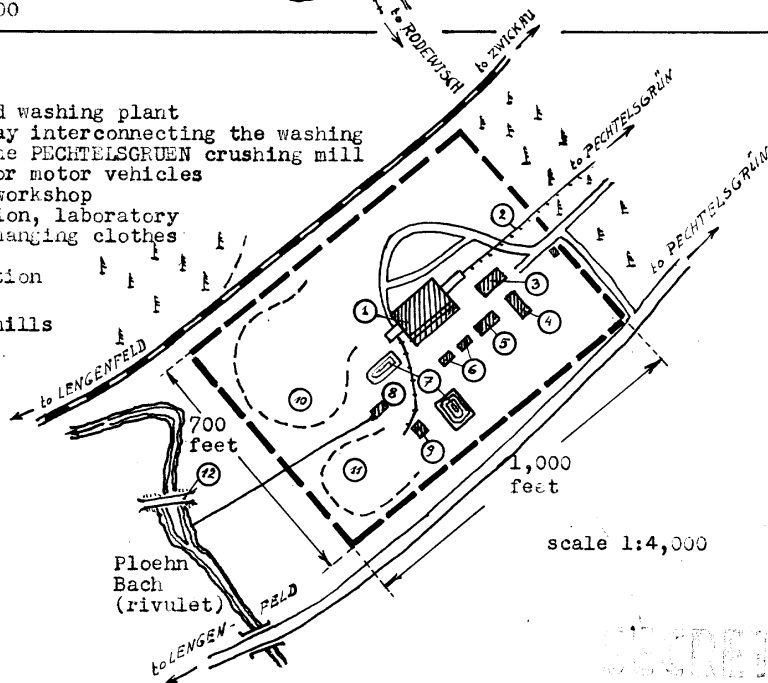
A Uranium ore washing plant



scale 1:100,000

Legend:

- 1 Dressing and washing plant
- 2 Cable railway interconnecting the washing plant and the PECHTELSCRUEN crushing mill
- 3 Shed roof for motor vehicles
- 4 Automobile workshop
- 5 Administration, laboratory
- 6 Rooms for changing clothes
- 7 Mud pit
- 8 Pumping station
- 9 Fuel dump
- 10 White sand hills
- 11) Weir
- 12 Weir



SECRET